



Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Update

Public Meeting
June 21, 2001, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Bellingham Cruise Terminal
355 Harris Avenue, Bellingham, WA

Bellingham Bay Work Group:

Port of Bellingham

City of Bellingham

Whatcom County

Lummi Nation

Nooksack Tribe

Washington Department of
Ecology

Washington Department of Fish
and Wildlife

Washington Department of
Natural Resources

Washington State Department of
Transportation

Puget Sound Water Quality
Action Team

National Marine Fisheries
Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Background

In May 1996, the organizations listed in the shaded area to the left joined together to form the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Work Group (formerly the Pilot Team) with a mission of developing a new cooperative approach to expedite source control, sediment cleanup and associated habitat restoration. To this end, the Work Group created the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, which integrates bay-wide information on sediment contamination, sources of pollution, habitat restoration and in-water and shoreline land use. The Comprehensive Strategy identifies priority issues requiring action in the near-term and provides long-term guidance to decision-makers.

The Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, including project-specific Near-Term Remedial Action alternatives, was evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was issued as a final document in October of 2000 following public review. Issuance of the Final EIS represented the completion of the planning phase and the beginning of the implementation phase of the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot.

Implementing the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy

To document the Work Group's ongoing commitment to the project and to the implementation of the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, two agreements were crafted; a Letter of Agreement between Work Group members and a Letter of Understanding between Georgia-Pacific West, the Port of Bellingham, the City of Bellingham and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The agreements include the following commitments:

- Continue the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot for 3 additional years.
- Form a Work Group made up of policy-level representatives from each participating entity that meets approximately every 6 weeks, with the meetings open to the public.
- Form Action Teams made up of staff-level representatives from interested participating entities to conduct specific work, make recommendations and provide technical support to the Work Group.
- Move forward with remedial activities at the Whatcom Waterway and Cornwall Avenue Landfill sites.

*To receive this information in an alternative format, please call
(425) 649-7272, or (425) 649-4259 (TDD)*

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Bellingham Bay Cleanup and Restoration Public Meeting

June 21, 2001



If you receive duplicates of this mailer, please contact the Department of Ecology at the address on the front.

Implementing the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy: Remedial Activities

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is involved in remedial activities at 12 individual contaminated sites located in Bellingham Bay or along the shoreline / water interface. All of these sites are the result of historic industrial, log rafting and/or landfilling practices, and their remediation is occurring in accordance Washington’s cleanup regulation, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). Under MTCA, persons responsible for contamination must perform environmental studies and evaluate cleanup alternatives, which are documented in a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report. After addressing public comment on the RI/FS report, Ecology then selects a cleanup alternative that is articulated for public review in a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).

The 12 sites are listed below with an estimate of the next opportunity for public comment on technical reports.

Site	Technical Report	Date Expected
Whatcom Waterway	CAP	Fall 2002
Cornwall Avenue Landfill	CAP	Fall 2002
R.G. Haley	RI/FS	Winter 2001
Roeder Avenue Landfill	RI/FS	Fall 2001
Chevron	Unknown	Unknown
Colony Wharf	Unknown	Unknown
Holly Street Landfill	RI/FS	Currently under Ecology/ public review
		Fall 2001
Harris Avenue Shipyard	RI/FS	Fall 2001
Olivine-Hilton Avenue	RI/FS	Fall 2001
Weldcraft	RI/FS	Summer 2002
Marine Services	RI/FS	Fall 2001
Taylor Avenue Dock	Unknown	Unknown

Implementing the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy: Action Team Activities

Sediment Treatment Action Team

The purpose of the Sediment Treatment Action Team is to facilitate communication and coordination regarding sediment treatments and alternatives, to act as a catalyst to bring realistic sediment treatments or alternatives to Bellingham Bay, and to make recommendations to the Bellingham Bay Work Group and/or Responsible Parties on sediment treatments and alternatives. The Washington Department of Natural Resources is the Sediment Treatment Action Team lead-entity. Anticipated activities include:

- Track the ElectroChemical Remediation Technology (ECRT) *in-situ* sediment treatment pilot demonstration planned at the Georgia-Pacific Log Pond.
- Coordinate with existing State programs and efforts to evaluate sediment treatment technologies.
- Identify realistic options for sediment treatment in Bellingham Bay.

Habitat Action Team

The purpose of the Habitat Action Team is to coordinate implementation of the habitat elements of the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is the Habitat Action Team lead entity. Anticipated activities include:

- Evaluate opportunities and processes for the beneficial reuse of qualifying dredged sediment.
- Develop a monitoring framework for sediment cap integrity and biological recovery.
- Explore opportunities to accelerate and streamline local, state, and federal permits specific to marine habitat enhancement and restoration projects.
- Maintain a habitat restoration funding source database.
- Assist the implementation of habitat restoration projects in Bellingham Bay. For example, alternatives for Squalicum Creek estuary restoration are being developed in conjunction with the Land Use Action Team.

Land Use Action Team

The Land Use Action Team has been formed to facilitate the planning aspects of implementing the Comprehensive Strategy. The City of Bellingham is the Land Use Action Team lead-entity. Anticipated activities include:

- Ensure that relevant elements of the Comprehensive Strategy are incorporated into local land use planning documents (e.g. Comprehensive Plans, Shoreline Master Plans, Port master planning activities).
- Undertake an area-wide planning effort aimed to integrate economic and habitat objectives for a specific area in the Bay where a project proponent does not currently exist. For example, alternatives for Squalicum Creek estuary restoration are being developed in conjunction with the Habitat Action Team.
- Facilitate the completion of the City’s Taylor Dock project in conjunction with the Source Control and Habitat Action Teams.
- Coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources’ efforts to complete a Harbor Line analysis and potential designation changes.
- Facilitate the designation of Habitat Reserve Areas as described in the Comprehensive Strategy.

Source Control Action Team

The purpose of the Source Control Action Team is to implement, prioritize and/or conduct the source control aspects of the Comprehensive Strategy. The Washington Department of Ecology is the Source Control Action Team lead-entity. Anticipated activities include:

- Conduct a review of existing ongoing source control activities related to discharges to Bellingham Bay, identify any program gaps and make recommendations to the Work Group for filling identified gaps.
- Educate ongoing source control program representatives of the Comprehensive Strategy.
- Track remedial actions, the monitoring of remediated areas, and permit and lease renewals as they relate to source control issues.
- Coordinate with existing source control programs to ensure that potential woody debris and phenol/ 4-methylphenol sources are addressed.
- Track the development of an agreement between the Washington Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife documenting the coordination process for reaching site-specific decisions regarding the removal of creosote pilings from the aquatic environment (e.g., whether to pull or clip the pilings).
- Coordinate with the Washington Department of Ecology on the development of a water cleanup plan for Bellingham Bay called a “total maximum daily load” (TMDL). See enclosed information for details.

Come to a Public Meeting!
June 21, 2001

Find out more information at the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot public meeting on Thursday, June 21st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, 355 Harris Ave, Bellingham. At the meeting, scientists will present additional information about the topics in this flyer, answer questions, and be on hand to talk individually with citizens.

What’s Next?

Over the next 3 years, the Work Group will continue to meet to guide implementation of the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy and to resolve issues that may arise, and the Action Teams will work to accomplish their anticipated activities. The Work Group and Action Teams will hold periodic informational meetings to update citizens on the status of activities and to answer questions.

In addition, many of the activities proposed to implement the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy have specific legal decision-making processes that must be adhered to before actions can be carried out. These processes ensure that the public is involved in decision-making. As a result, citizens can expect a number of formal opportunities over the coming years to influence decisions in Bellingham Bay.

For More Information

If you have any questions, please contact Lucy McInerney at Ecology (425) 649-7272 or Mike Stoner at the Port of Bellingham (360) 676-2500.

